



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY AND GIANT FOOD ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP DETAILS**

**Landover, Md. (December 7, 2009)** – At a briefing Friday, Dec. 4 about the newly formed partnership between the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) and Giant Food of Landover, Md., Giant announced that it will offer up to 250,000 reusable bags to customers who purchase groceries in District of Columbia Giant Food stores beginning January 1, 2010. Giant and AWS have joined forces to tackle environmental issues affecting the Anacostia River and its watershed. Civic and environmental leaders including District Department of the Environment (DDOE) representatives participated in the briefing held at the Giant Food store located on Alabama Avenue, SE.

Customers can participate in this “Pack It” initiative at all Giant stores in the District of Columbia during the first week of January. Giant has pledged to distribute up to a quarter of a million free bags for customers to use and reuse, to help protect our environment and our region’s natural resources including the Anacostia River. Further, Giant has committed to work alongside Mayor Fenty and the DDOE to help to distribute the D.C. “Skip the Bag, Save the River” reusable bags to District residents starting in December.

“We are delighted that so many from our community were able to join us at our briefing today. Giant is confident that together with the Anacostia Watershed Society, an environmental champion, we can make a giant impact, one day, one action at a time,” said Robin Michel, president of Giant Food of Landover, Md. “This partnership is about saving the River and cleaning up our community. Working together with AWS, the DDOE, and our other community partners, we can and we will make a difference. ”

As D.C. residents prepare for the January 1 implementation of the new bag tax, Giant and AWS are committed to helping educate associates and shoppers about the benefits of reducing, reusing, and recycling as a valuable service to the community. At each of its D.C. stores, Giant has appointed a “Green Captain” to serve as an environmental steward, championing green initiatives among associates and customers and provide in-store educational information about reusability and how we can help clean up our communities.

“The Anacostia Watershed Society is excited to partner with Giant Food as we work toward a fishable and swimmable Anacostia River. Giant is a partner with us in reducing trash in the Anacostia River, one of our main goals,” said Jim Foster, president of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “This partnership will give Giant associates environmental knowledge that they can share with customers throughout the Anacostia Watershed. In addition, the Society will gain access to Giant associates and customers to engage in stewardship and educational programs. Together we will work with the communities around each store to promote best practices that clean the river.”

### ***About Anacostia Watershed Society***

*The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) is dedicated to cleaning the waters, recovering the shoreline, and honoring the heritage of the Anacostia River and its watershed communities in Washington, D.C. and Maryland. Since 1989, AWS has worked to conserve and protect the land and water of the Anacostia River and its watershed communities through educational programs, stewardship efforts, and advocacy projects. AWS works to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable as required by the Clean Water Act. For more information about AWS, visit [www.AnacostiaWS.org](http://www.AnacostiaWS.org).*

### ***About Giant Food of Landover, Md.***

*Giant Food LLC, headquartered in Landover, Md., operates 180 supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, and employs approximately 22,000 associates. Included within the 180 stores are 163 full-service pharmacies. Giant is owned by Netherlands-based Ahold. Giant Food works to ensure that all stores, distribution centers, offices, and transport initiatives are operating efficiently to reduce the environmental footprint. In 2007, Giant was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an ENERGY STAR leader for demonstrating superior energy performance across the organization. Additionally, Giant recycles several tons of cardboard, plastic, and paper each year. For more information on Giant, visit [www.GiantFood.com](http://www.GiantFood.com).*